

Ever since I got my XM satellite radio, I haven't listened to anything else. Honestly. I don't desire to be changing prerecorded music selections during my commute or flipping through AM/FM stations for anything I can bear listening to between commercials. The quality of AM/FM programming has gotten so unbelievably stale, that it's not even worth checking out, even on occasion - I know I will just hear more of the same old stuff; the same popular music, the same opinions and the same useless chatter on virtually every station. But radio listening isn't only about music and talk shows.

I really don't need to check the traffic and weather from my radio - I can check it from my computer, but I'm paying for it and I've got the Traffic & Weather Channel programmed on my XM for the convenience of listening to it on the road, for local information, and the superior broadcast quality. With a turn of the dial, I have immediate access to national info, and a whole world of practical knowledge I would otherwise be completely unaware of. I only think it's fair, since I'm paying a premium for selective radio listening, that I should be able to select a traffic & weather station, should I choose to.

The XM traffic & weather stations provide a level of complete reporting that is impossible to find on AM or FM stations. Since XM users pay a premium to listen, there is no time wasted on advertising, and more time spent on giving us what we tuned in for, traffic & weather! Plus, I can find out what's happening all over the country by simply tuning in to another region's station. I can know if it's storming where where my aging mother lives, or if my grandmother is suffering through a heat wave in case I need to check in on her via phone. I have an idea as to what kind of day my out-of-state friends are having. Should I be travelling cross-country, I can check the traffic and weather conditions in places before I arrive or drive through them. I can alter my route in case of poor road conditions or get a heads up about construction I would otherwise have no way of hearing about.

If I didn't have traffic & weather on XM radio, I might be in the gulf right now (literally) on a flooded highway, or stuck on inbound I-55 as a load of gravel spills onto the expressway, with the only alternative taking me 15 minutes out-of-the-way of a 30-minute client meeting I'm already rushing to get to on time. As much as I don't need XM Traffic & Weather, I am growing to depend on it twice as much.

I strongly urge the FCC to REJECT THE NAB'S PETITION 04-160, and to support XM's ability to provide the kind of programming that I am not only paying a premium for, but that I, and all XM users deserve and demand. PLEASE SUPPORT XM RADIO! We do, and we are the people, the consumers, the constituents who make up this great democracy!